captioned "Coordination: key to growth of tourism" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of July 25, 1991, stating that devaluation of the rupee would make India a cheap destination for foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what special steps are contemplated to explore and exploit the added potential for attracting foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to project in the overseas market, the competitiveness of Indian tourism product in the overseas markets.

Grounding of Boeing 707

940. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India Bombay edition, dated July 24, 1991, captioned "Airline with no destination", reporting that Boeing 707 belonging to the Bombay based 'Confidential Aviation' was parked in a corner of Nagpur Airport for about a month;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances under which the aircraft was so grounded; and

(c) what steps have been taken to put it on wing again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aircraft was grounded at Nagpur airport due to technical problems.

(c) The aircraft belongs to a private party, namely, M/s. Continental Aviation.

Privatisation of Oil Sector

941. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering privatisation of certain areas in oil sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Private Sector participation to a certain extent already exists in exploration, refining and marketing activities of the petroleum sector.

Navigational aids in North-Eastern Airports

942. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that navigational and communication aids in the North-Eastern Region are in appalling condition as per the news item entitled "Unreliable Navigational Aids" which appeared in the Times of India of the 19th August, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The installation of navigational aids at our airports is a continuous process. The National Airports Authority is implementing a phased programme for installation of navigational aids in the North East region.

Postponement of Interviews

943. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SC/ST candidates were called for interview in May, 1991 for recruitment in the cadre of Helper, Clerk/Bill Clerk, Chowkidar, Houseman extra under special recruitment drive and the interview was postponed without fixing any daate of interview;

(b) if so, the reasons of postponement;

(c) what is the next date fixed for interview?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The interview fixed in May 1991, were postponed due to slump in business and financial constraints. These are now likely to be held by the end of November, 1991.

Royalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

944. -KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently received any memorandum from the Government of Gujarat regarding royalty on crude oil and natural gas payable to the State Government;

(b) if so, the points raised in the said memorandum;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) by when the decision on the points raised therein will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The question of royalty on crude oil is being examined by a Committee set up by the Government.

Tourism Policy

945. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to frame short term and long term national tourism policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government are in the process of formulation and Action Plan for Tourism.

Development of Calicut Airport

946. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for the development of Calicut Airport and also for the introduction of additional flights to other parts of the country and abroad; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.